



U.S. House of Representatives

Committee on the Judiciary

F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman

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News Advisory

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Judiciary Subcommittees Hold Joint Hearing Thursday on Security and Safety at the U.S. - Mexico Border

What: Joint Oversight Hearing on "Weak Bilateral Law Enforcement Presence at the U.S. - Mexico Border: Territorial Integrity and Safety Issues for American Citizens"

Who: Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security - Rep. Howard Coble (R-N.C.), Chairman AND Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Claims - Rep. John N. Hostettler (R-Ind.), Chairman

When: 10:00 a.m., Thursday, November 17, 2005

Where: 2141 Rayburn Building

In recent months, violence along the United States - Mexican border has exploded, particularly near the town of Laredo, Texas and its cross border counterpart, Nuevo Laredo as a result of a turf battle between rival drug cartels. These violent and dangerous gangs have engaged in numerous criminal activities including murder, kidnap for ransom, drug sales, coercion, extortion, robbery and the trafficking of drugs and money. DHS believes that the goal of disrupting and dismantling cross border smuggling organizations, their supporting infrastructure and the violence that they commit on both sides of the border cannot be achieved without enhancing the cooperation and exchange of information between U.S. law enforcement agencies and our Mexican law enforcement counterparts.

PROBLEMS...

- ✓ Since last year, 173 people have gone missing throughout the state of Tamaulipas, 43 of whom were Americans from nearby Laredo, Texas. There have been no arrests in the disappearances. Additionally, there have been at least 105 executions in Nuevo Laredo this year as a result of the drug violence.

THIS HEARING WILL...

- ⇒ Examine Operation Black Jack, which was initiated in July 2005 in response to the increase in violence in the Nuevo Laredo and Laredo areas.
- ⇒ Examine methods used by the government to adequately warn U.S. citizens about the violence, ensure the violence does not spill onto U.S. territory, and effectively protect border integrity.

Witnesses: Mr. Chris Swecker, Assistant Director, Criminal Investigative Division, FBI; Mr. William Reid, Acting Assistant Director, Office of Investigations, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE); Mr. Rey Garza, Deputy Chief Patrol Agent, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP); and Mr. T.J. Bonner, President, National Border Patrol Council.

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